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(COVERT ACTION)

(BY DANIEL F. GILMORE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- COVERT ACTION INFORMATION BULLETIN SAID TODAY IT WILL NO LONGER PUBLISH THE IDENTITIES AND POSTS OF CIA AGENTS WORKING ABROAD UNTIL PROPOSED LEGISLATION FORBIDDING SUCH PRACTICE IS RESOLVED IN THE COURTS.

BUT THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE ANTI-INTELLIGENCE PERIODICAL, IN A MAMMOTH FINAL EDITION OF ITS "NAMING NAMES" COLUMN, PUBLISHED THE LOCATIONS AND IDENTITIES OF 69 ALLEGED CIA OFFICERS IN 45 COUNTRIES. TWENTY-THREE WERE IDENTIFIED AS ALLEGED "CHIEFS OF STATION" OR AS "BASE CHIEFS" AND NINE AS ALLEGED "DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STATION." BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL WAS INCLUDED.

THE LOCATIONS OF THE ALLEGED AGENTS WERE ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY OVER EIGHT PAGES RANGING FROM BANGLADASH TO ZAMBIA AND INCLUDING SUCH AREAS AS CHINA, EGYPT, INDIA, JERUSALEM, PARAGUAY AND SOUTH AFRICA.

"BECAUSE OF THE IMMINENT PASSAGE OF THE INTELLIGENCE IDENTITIES PROTECTION ACT, THIS WILL BE OUR LAST 'NAMING NAMES' COLUMN UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE ACT HAS BEEN DECIDED BY THE COURTS," COVERT ACTION SAID.

IT REFERRED TO LEGISLATION, ALREADY APPROVED BY THE HOUSE AND EXPECTED TO MOVE SHORTLY TO THE SENATE FLOOR, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT A CRIME FOR ANYONE TO DELIBERATELY REVEAL THE NAMES OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS WORKING UNDER COVER WITH THE INTENT OF DAMAGING OR HINDERING THEIR ACTIVITIES.

THIS WOULD EMBRACE NOT ONLY AGENTS OF THE CIA BUT THOSE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, THE ARMED FORCES INTELLIGENCE BRANCHES, COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE AGENTS OF THE FBI AND INTELLIGENCE COMPONENTS OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

"WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO CEASE PUBLICATION," COVERT ACTION SAID. "ON THE CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE REST OF OUR MAGAZINE, BEYOND THE NAMING NAMES COLUMN, REPRESENTS THE MOST VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION WE CAN MAKE TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST U.S. INTERVENTIONISM.

"WE HOPE THAT THE NEW LAW WILL SOON BE CONSIDERED TO THE GARBAGE HEAP OF HISTORY, BUT REGARDLESS OF THE DURATION OF THE SUCCESS OF THAT STRUGGLE, COVERT ACTION INFORMATION BULLETIN WILL NOT DISAPPEAR."

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